

COMY OF PAPHERS

IR-2156 (2-2817)

# THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Mario Merlin, et al.

Serial No.: 10/057,399

Filed: January 25, 2002

Washington, D.C. 20231

For:

MOLDED INSULATION RING

Asst. Commissioner for Patents

Date: August 8, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2827

Examiner: J.M. Mitchell

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### AMENDMENT/SUBMISSION

This is a response to the Office Action mailed May 8, 2002 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. FEE CALCULATION Any additional fee required has been calculated as follows: If checked, "Small Entity" status is claimed. HIGHEST NO. NO. CLAIMS ADDIT. **PREVIOUSLY AFTER** FEE EXTRA PRESENT PAID FOR MENDMENT (\$9 SE or \$18) \$ 84.00 (\$42 SE or \$84) **MINUS** (\$140 SE or \$280) FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM TOTAL \$ 84.00 \* not less than 20 \*\* not less than 3

If any additional payment is required, a check which includes the calculated fee of \$84.00 (OFGS Check No. 10381) is attached.

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In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

## CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

 $\sqrt{\ }$  If checked, amendment(s) to the specification and/or claims are submitted herewith.

#### Claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 8, 9 and 11 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 12 and 22 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(i) as set forth in the "clean" version attached hereto as Appendix A. Entry is respectfully requested. A version with markings to show the changes made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii) is attached hereto as Appendix B.